

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026

2021/22 Update

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land that makes up Monash, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognise their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Introduction

Our 2021/22 Annual Report showcases how we are delivering on seven key priorities set out in Monash Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026. The strategy sets Council's environmental commitments for the future and proposes actions that will help to reach these goals, which will promote the development of a sustainable and resilient community and will reduce Council's impact on the environment.

Our Vision

An innovative and environmentally sustainable garden city: resilient, diverse and thriving.

Our Mission

Making a difference through environmental sustainability, commitment, expertise and leadership.

Our seven key priorities:

Built Environment

Urban Ecology

Climate Change

Waste and Resource Management

Integrated Water Management

Partnerships and Leadership

Education, Engagement and Reporting

Each year we highlight our key achievements and provide case studies for each priority.

Built Environment

Key achievements

NEW

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DESIGN POLICY FOR COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Adopted by Council on 25 January 2022

\$6.2M INVESTED

in footpath and cycleway renewal (\$3.5m in 2020/21 \$5.6m in 2019/20)

113 BESS (BUILT ENVIRONMENT SCORE CARD) SUBMISSIONS (80 in 2020/21), mainly multi-unit dwellings

Delivering on Built Environment

- In 2016, Council adopted an Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy, as part of the Monash Planning Scheme, for multi-unit developments (three or more) across the municipality.
- To implement, developers use the Built Environment Score Card (BESS) to assess how their developments are meeting the policy.
- In 2021/22, there were 113 BESS submissions, which is higher than the 2020/21 result of 80.
 - Most BESS sites were multi-unit residential dwellings (572/908 individual dwellings).
 - Non-residential space (65,400 square metres) accounted for 31% of total assessed (100,800m² out of 145,000m² in 2020/21).
 - A total of 0.76MW of solar was included at these sites (0.65MW in 2020/21).
 - New rainwater capacity of 1.66ML (1.49ML in 2020/21).
- The top five sustainability priorities were – stormwater, indoor environment (air) quality, water, energy and transport. This was consistent with previous years, except for the continuing trend of a stronger commitment to sustainable transport in 2021/22.

New Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy (ESD) for Council Buildings and Infrastructure

- The policy was adopted by Council 25 January 2022 and seeks to improve environmental performance and climate resilience when designing, constructing or upgrading Council owned and managed buildings and infrastructure. The policy will strengthen delivery of sustainability under the Council's Procurement Policy.
- Policy was trialled at Wellington Children's Hub and Mulgrave Pavilion sites prior to completion to identify updates to make it workable, and keep within budget.
- It is a key action of Council's Zero Net Carbon Action Plan to increase recycled content, as part of our Waste Management Strategy (2017) which was developed in partnership with Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA).

Key achievements

71,623 TREES, PLANTS AND SHRUBS

were planted in streets, bushland, and open spaces (70,194 in 2021/22)

BUSHKINDER SPACES KEEP GROWING

We installed the Albany Drive Reserve Bush Kinder space in partnership with 20 children from Mulgrave Park Preschool

OVER 3000 OBSERVATIONS OF WILD PLANTS AND ANIMALS

were made by Monash residents in the Great Southern Bioblitz and the City Nature Challenge

GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE GARDEN GUIDES

11 volunteers conducted 23 visits to gardens in Monash (schools and residential)

Vegetation and trees

Tree and vegetation planting

- A total of 71,623 trees, shrubs, and ground covers were planted across the municipality, including 1,400 street trees. This is the result of careful planning and extensive consultation with residents over the last 12-16 months, providing sufficient lead in time for growing these street trees ready for planting.
- Due to COVID restrictions, the Bushland Team planted approximately 10,000 additional plants to cover those that would normally be completed by the community volunteers. However, our Friends of Groups have remained active behind the scenes — meeting virtually, preparing grants, informing conservation and integrated site management plans.
- In a rare opportunity between lockdowns, Year 12 boys from Salesian College and their teacher, three residents and four students from Holmesglen TAFE, as well as members of the bushland and sustainability teams, planted about 700 seedlings into the Skink Link habitat along Scotchmans Creek in Oakleigh.

Nature Strip Planting Project

- The Nature Strip Planting Project has been implemented and new guidelines have been placed on Council's website. We planned two demonstration gardens at Amaroo and Mackie Road Neighbourhood houses (and installed in July 2022) and held a 'How to plant up your nature strip' webinar (165 attendees in person or via webinar). An incentive program providing vouchers for Indigenous plants and mulch is underway.
- A new booklet, 'Gardens for Harvest,' has been produced and distributed through Libraries and Customer Service Centres and is available to order online. This booklet is an easy to read, visual and practical guide to growing your own free fruit and vegetables at home. It is modelled on our very successful 'Gardens for Wildlife' program.

Green Shoots

Gardens for Wildlife and Volunteer Guides

Over financial year 2021/22, 11 Garden Guide volunteers conducted 23 visits to gardens in Monash (school and residential visits).

Seedlings and plant vouchers

Around 1,750 seedlings were planted as part of Greenshoots:

- Skink Link – 1,000 plants in between Drummond and Warrigal Road, Oakleigh (Scotchmans Creek)
- Amaroo Neighbourhood House nature strip – 150 plants
- Albany Drive Bush Kinder – 400 plants
- Glen Tower Road Reserve nature strip – 200 plants.

Through the Greenshoots program over 1,100 Greenlinks plant vouchers for issued in 2021/22 for the following categories:

- Residential – 720 plants
- School – 180 plants
- Commercial – 200 plants.

Nest Box Project

In 2021/22, 120 households were involved in our Nest Box Project to create homes for small parrots and microbats. This is to replace hollows in older trees which may be lost. The Monash Men's Shed helped cut pieces for the kits, which were distributed to residents' doors during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. Salesian College VCAL students painted the boxes. The nest boxes have all been installed in our bushland areas. Residents can visit their numbered box and help monitor animal nesting activity.

Bush Kinders

A new Bush Kinder space was created at Albany Drive Reserve in Mulgrave, between Albany Rise Primary and Mulgrave Park Preschool. Both were involved in the design of the space which included large tree trunks and rocks relocated from the Waverley Women's Sports Centre redevelopment to create the space. The children from Mulgrave Park Preschool helped plant more than 100 plants to create habitat for insects, birds and other wildlife, and all the children use the space for nature-based play.

City Nature Challenge

In April and May 2022, Monash Council took part in the worldwide City Nature Challenge for a second year. The Melbourne group extended to over 20 councils. We ran two nature walks as part of the event – along Scotchmans Creek (Skink Link Project) and the new Waverley Park Wetlands – and partnered with Knox City Council on two webinars. During the four-day challenge, 586 observations of wild plants and animals were made by Monash residents.

Great Southern Bioblitz

For the whole month of September 2021 (during COVID-19 restrictions) our residents were out and about taking 2,577 observations of plant and animal species.

Climate Change

Key achievements

100% RENEWABLE SOURCED ELECTRICITY FOR COUNCIL BUILDINGS FROM JULY 2021

78% REDUCTION IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

DELIVERING ON THE ZERO NET CARBON COMMITMENT

In August 2020, Council committed to being carbon neutral by 2025.

The baseline is **20,503 tCO₂e** and is based on all Scope 1, 2 and 3 corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2018/19. Key projects to delivery this commitment include:

- 100% renewable electricity through VECO
- Energy upgrades at our major facilities, energy upgrades 80% complete
- Public lighting upgraded to LED
- Community building energy efficiency upgrades
- ESD policy
- Procurement
- Increasing EV fleet.

Through the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan, Council is committed to prioritising funding for key projects to reduce corporate emissions that also represent an attractive return on investment to the long-term Financial Plan to achieve the 2025 target.

In addition to addressing corporate emissions, Council will also support the reduction of municipal wide GHG emissions by partnering with community and business, reduce emissions through waste reduction and increased use of recycled materials in our infrastructure projects, and increase tree canopy to provide local storage of carbon, improve community amenity and benefit biodiversity.

Achievements since August 2020 for Council include:

- 78% reduction of GHG emissions since the 2018/19 baseline (greater than the target of 60% reduction)
- 28% reduction in electricity costs (equating to \$611,000 pa)
- Enhanced progress on projects to realise savings earlier.

A key action to achieving this reduction was the commitment to purchasing 100% renewable electricity in partnership with 50 other Victorian councils under the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO).

New energy efficient boilers have been installed at the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Preparation works for installing solar have been conducted at the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Corporate carbon inventory	Non COVID scenario (est.)*	% Reduction	Actual (with COVID restrictions)	% Reduction
2018/19 (baseline)	20,503	0	20,503	0
2019/20	19,930	3	18,869	8
2020/21	15,797	23	12,689	38
2021/22	4536.8	78	4536.8	78

Electric vehicles (EV) at Monash

With the new Kona Electric vehicle added to the fleet, Monash now has five electric vehicles supported by seven charging stations at Council.

Small business energy saver program

City of Monash on behalf of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action was selected as an intermediary for the Sustainability Victoria Small business energy saver program. The goal of the Small Business Energy Saver Program was to help small businesses recover after COVID impacts, become more resilient in their operations as well as save on their energy costs. Over the year, the team engaged with over 1,560 small business (1-19FTE) to help them access energy efficiency VEU (Victorian energy upgrade) rebates and bonuses to help them save money and build their resilience and energy independence.

The project contributes to delivery for community emission reduction commitments of the Zero Net Carbon Action Plan. We also engage with other businesses on LED lighting retrofits and environmental upgrade agreements. In Monash there were:

- 95 Installations
- 2,780 Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs) generated*
- 176.96 Annual GHG savings (CO2-e in tonnes)
- 190.62 Annual Saved MWh
- \$49,562 Annual bill savings
- \$97,871 Solar Victoria bonus received in the EAGA region, over 600 upgrades will save businesses in the region ~\$370,000 annually and cut emissions by 1,300 tonnes.

Cities Power Partnership Awards – finalist

Council was a finalist in the Ambition Award for our Zero Net Carbon Action Plan at the Cities Power Partnerships 2021 Climate Awards. The awards recognise the work of councils paving the way to a no-carbon-zero future.

*The certificates represent 1 tonne of CO2e each and can only be created by Accredited Persons. They have a market value and are how energy efficient products can be provided with significant discounts. Each year energy providers have to purchase and surrender an agreed number of VEECs.

Waste and Resource Management

Key achievements

THE WEEKLY FOOD WASTE RECYCLING COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN ENGAGED WITH OVER 7,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Food waste recycling community engagement

This was our biggest community consultation to date, with over 7,000 contributions received.

- We introduced food waste recycling in July 2020. In the past 12 months, we have seen a decrease in the amount of waste sent to landfill from households. Collected food and garden waste is taken to a Dandenong composting facility where it is processed and turned into compost, ready for use on farms and gardens. Things like fruit and vegetables, meat, fish and bones, coffee grounds, eggs and dairy, bread, rice, pasta and paper towels can be recycled.
- At its December 2021 meeting, Council resolved to change the frequency of the food and garden bin (to weekly) and landfill bin collection (fortnightly) from August 2022, to increase the amount of food processed into compost (and decrease food to landfill). Community consultation was held from late January to March 2022, beginning with letters sent to all residential properties and ratepayers, with a QR code linked to the Shape Monash page where an opt-in survey could be completed. An information flyer on the changes to the service was also included with the letter. JWS Research was engaged to conduct qualitative and quantitative research, including focus groups and a telephone survey of 800 Monash residents. The phone survey was a representative sample of City of Monash demography, based on proportions from Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data.
- Additionally, 29 face-to-face engagement pop-up stalls were held across the municipality throughout the consultation period. A total of 1,518 residents spoke with officers at these, with a further 55 residents connecting via Zoom for Q&A and information sessions.
- In total, over 7,000 interactions were recorded over this consultation period, including a total of 4,371 complete survey responses, which provided feedback from a variety of perspectives and across a range of household circumstances.

At the April 2022 Council meeting, councillors considered the community consultation feedback and endorsed changes to the bin collection frequency, and endorsed changes to support residents, including expanding the special consideration exemption for a free landfill bin upgrade to households with two or more children in nappies, lowering the cost of a second recycling bin to \$65 per year, and delivering a sample pack of Australian standard compostable liners to each household with a food and garden waste bin.

Waste education, Litter and Waste management

- 86,913 members of the public visited our Monash Recycling and Waste Centre (2020/21 – 78,697).
- Monash was the third top recycler in Australia and the top recycler in Victoria for PaintBack diverting 226,000 kg of paint from landfill in 2021/22. For the past eight years, Monash Recycling and Waste Centre is the top paint collection point in the state.
- Monash Council is again the top recycler of mobile phones in Victoria under the popular MobileMuster partnership program. Monash earned the Top Recycler Award for Victoria as part of MobileMuster's Local Government Awards 2022. Through community donations Council contributed 263 kg of mobile phone components in the 12 months to April 2022.
- 72,182.78 tonnes of landfill, recycling, and green waste collected was collected by Council (72,474.10 tonnes in 2020/21), including 1,087 tonnes of cardboard and paper, through the Monash Recycling and Waste Centre.
- 12,565 mattresses were collected and recycled free of charge during the Annual Hard Waste collection period (10,665 in 2020/21).
- Monash waste diversion rate has remained relatively steady at 56%, just short of Council's target of 60% by the end of 2022. It is planned that an uptake in food waste reduction through the bin collection frequency switch and improved recycling will lift this rate further.
- The Recycle Right Feedback Program visually checks recycling and food and garden waste bins before collection, providing direct feedback back to households. In 2021/22, 9,464 bins were inspected (3807 recycling bins and

5,657 food and garden waste bins, including follow-up checks). Around 52% of checked recycling bins and 87% of food and garden waste bins were used correctly, with bins receiving feedback via bin tags and flyers in the letterbox. Those using bins correctly were eligible for a monthly prize draw, to reward the right behaviour. The program was paused during September and October 2021 due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

- 22 litter infringements were issued for actions such as for mulch dumping and tyre dumping.
- Clayton Litter Prevention Project – In partnership with Monash University, the Clayton Litter Project continued in 2021/22, with two Monash University students completing bin inspections and door knocking in the residential streets closest to the Monash University Clayton campus. The project aims to have a weekly presence to improve waste behaviours (COVID-19 restrictions paused the program in September and October 2021). In 2021/22, nearly 1,000 bins were inspected (642 recycling bins and 322 food and garden bins).

Integrated Water Management

Key achievements

\$2.5M INVESTED

FOR THE RENEWAL AND UPGRADE OF COUNCIL'S STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDING LOCAL DRAINAGE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS) IN WATER INVESTMENT

Improving how we manage water through Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Officer role

Our WSUD officer was appointed in March 2021 and since then has worked across Council teams and with external stakeholders to increase understanding and adoption of WSUD and Integrated Water Management (IWM).

Workshops, forums and presentations

The 'Embedding Successful WSUD Asset Management Practices' (ESWAMP) workshop explored more efficient management of Council's Water Sensitive Urban Design assets (projects funded by Melbourne Water Living Rivers Grant).

The WSUD Officer presented *Green and Blue Infrastructure – Council delivery of public spaces with multiple benefits* to the Stormwater Western Australia Conference and Stormwater Victoria Conference.

An Engineer's Development workshop presented our learnings and outcomes of the ESWAMP and the WSUD Asset Audit to a range of Council teams, Water Authorities and other Councils (45 attendees). The session provided an update on recent Monash projects, supported by Melbourne Water, and shared learnings from these projects.

Embedding WSUD/IWM into Council Strategies or Plans

In October 2021, Council endorsed the Yarra Catchment Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan and the Dandenong Creek IWM Plan and supported embedding relevant targets from the Catchment Scale IWM Plans into Council's future plans and actions.

We reviewed and provided feedback to enhance the role of WSUD in the:

- Urban Boulevards Strategy
- Integrated Site Plans for Valley Conservation Reserve, Jack Edwards Reserve, Bogong Reserve, Glen Waverley Sports Hub and Talbot Park
- Health and Wellbeing Plan

- Design of Council Capital Works projects including new facilities, landscape and streetscape works
- Landscape Developer Guidelines – WSUD overview
- Application of the stormwater requirements in the State and Monash Planning Scheme.

Internal collaboration

WSUD Working Group – is a cross-Council group re-established to review WSUD asset management processes.

Planning team – collaboration supports the application of statutory stormwater planning requirements.

Scammell Reserve Stormwater Harvesting System project – collaboration to progress this project through detailed design.

Stakeholder and community engagement:

Wetlands and waterbugs presentation to around 25 kindergarten students at a local childcare centre.

Sustainable Monash e-news articles explaining how WSUD improves water quality, enhances waterway health and benefits the community.

Suburban Rail Loop Advocacy

Our WSUD officer:

- Provided ongoing feedback on the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) project, including advocating for mitigation of impacts on local waterways and downstream water bodies, and promoting urban cooling, greenery and amenity.
- Advocated for enhanced WSUD, IWM, tree retention and sustainability outcomes for the SRL project. Attended the Technical Review Committee meetings in 2021, reviewed and provided feedback on Impact Assessments and the Urban Design Strategy, helped to write Monash’s Environmental Effects Statement (EES) submission, provided feedback on the Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs), summarised the arboriculture impacts of the project for the EES hearings and the importance of re-establishing canopy using WSUD, and providing ongoing feedback on the initial and early works.

Partnerships and Leadership

Key achievements

PART OF VICTORIAN ENERGY COLLABORATION (VECO)

COLLECTIVELY THE PARTNERSHIP HAS AVOIDED THE GENERATION OF GHG EMISSIONS BY 172,000 TONNES

PART OF EASTERN ALLIANCE FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION (EAGA)

EAGA COLLECTIVELY REDUCED 57,000 TONNES OF EMISSIONS IN 2021/22

\$91,700 IN GRANTS

There are 15 community representatives in the 2021/22 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), including three new casual members who joined this year. The committee continues to meet monthly to discuss a range of topics and issues including water sensitive urban design, litter prevention, waste and recycling, community gardens, education, innovation and environmental effects statement for the Suburban Rail Loop.

Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA)

EAGA is a partnership between eight Councils in Melbourne's east, collaborating on regional programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate regional adaptation. Highlights across the region in 2021/22:

- 57,000 tonnes emissions reduced
- \$4.8M savings to councils from EAGA projects
- 700KW residential solar installed
- 1,560 businesses engaged
- Five formal advocacy submissions.

Being part of EAGA supports Monash in our delivery of our Zero Net Carbon Action Plan commitments. Monash also hosts the EAGA Business Energy Saver team for EAGA to promote the Small Business Energy Saver program (funded by Sustainability Victoria).

Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO)

In June 2022, the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) was nominated for, and won, the Sustainability Initiative Category at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence. Monash was a participant in this initiative and was also a member of the tender evaluation panel which led to the award of the landmark project. The project saw 51 Victorian Councils coming together to make the switch to 100% renewable energy, reducing emissions and saving on electricity bills. VECO, led by Darebin Council, was the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken by local governments in Australia, delivering 100% renewable electricity to all 51 Councils. Collectively, the partnership has avoided the generation of GHG emissions by 172,000 tonnes, which is the equivalent taking 66,000 cars off the road, or equal to the generation of emissions from 35,000 homes.

Partnership with the Victorian Renewable Liquid (Green) Hydrogen Supply Hub feasibility study project/Monash University

Monash University received a \$75,000 grant for the Victorian Renewable Liquid (Green) Hydrogen Supply Hub feasibility study project. Monash Council provided in-kind support for the study through the provision of data. The study involves analysis of hydrogen fuel in Monash, sourced from renewable electricity, which will be useful to Monash Council regarding any decisions on carbon neutral fuel for trucks and other larger fleet, where electronic vehicle charging is not suitable.

Water specific partnerships and participation

Monash Council participated in several forums on co-designing the governance model for a Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration; Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forums Working Groups to develop actions plans for Dandenong and Yarra catchments, which involved collaboration with other Councils, Melbourne Water, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), water retailers, and Traditional Owner Groups; Gardiners/Kooyongkoot and Koonung Creek IWM working group; Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) WSUD working group; and DELWP Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) roadmap working group and WSUD survey.

Grant Funding

Monash Council received the following grant funding:

- \$80,000 from Sustainability Victoria's Recycling Victoria Councils Fund for a Reusable Nappy Feasibility Study, which was led by Monash Council on behalf of 12 metropolitan councils.

- \$25,000 Destination Charging Victoria Grant from the DELWP to install four 22kW public electric vehicle charge points.
- \$37,500 from the electrical vehicle charging for Council Fleets Program for Council vehicle transition to electric vehicles to install two charge points for council use.
- \$29,200 from the Community Climate Change and Energy Action Program Stream 1 for energy audits at six community facilities.
- Funding agreement through Living Links and Melbourne Water for the Urban Forest Grant was finalised for developing a Microforest at Mulgrave Reserve.
- Council was successful under the Community Climate Change and Energy Action Program Stream 2, in receiving a grant on behalf of Oakleigh District Football Netball Cricket to install solar at Princes Hwy Reserve. The value of the grant is \$10,635, to be matched by Council. To be installed in first quarter of 2022/23.

Sir John Monash Awards for Environmental Leadership

The 2021 Sir John Monash Award for Sustainability Leadership went to joint winners: Andrew Mahar an accomplished social entrepreneur who has spent the past 30 years seeding, nurturing and mentoring more than 15 successful social enterprises in both Australia and Timor-Leste; and Dr Brandon Winfrey who founded the Monash Solar Decathlon Team, a student team at Monash University that participates in the annual US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge where teams design net zero energy buildings.

Education, Engagement and Reporting

Key achievements

**18 WASTE EDUCATION INCURSIONS
TO SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS**

**23 WORKSHOPS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
INVOLVING 4,400 COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**Sustainable Monash eNews is sent to
780 READERS EACH MONTH**

Community workshop, activities and events

Sustainable Monash team connected with the community online and in person to encourage residents to be involved in a range of events, workshops, and activities with topics ranging from waste, energy, biodiversity around 4,400 people participated in the following activities, in addition to school and community group incursions:

- Food Organics Garden Organics Pop-Up information stalls
- Great Southern Biodiversity Blitz

- Beyond the bin – recycling and circular economy
- Sustainable House Day webinar
- Solar Savers information session
- Council supported the Open Garden Day in partnership with Waverley Garden Club who showcased six local gardens with over 300 visitors to each garden
- Powerful by Name, Powerful by Nature (Powerful Owl presentation)
- Introduction to Recycling in Monash (webinar) (two sessions)
- What Happens to Your Recycling (webinar) (two sessions)
- Sharing Your Garden for Wildlife presentation with Sustainable Gardening Australia and Monash Sustainability team
- Presentation to the Bright Early Learning Centre
- Energy Savers Presentation as part of Monash Women’s Day Event
- Electrify Your Wheels (partner, presented at this event)
- Free Chemical Detox your home Drop Off
- City Nature Challenge
- City Nature Challenge Webinar: The Small and Mighty Micro World
- City Nature Challenge Webinar: Leaves, Feathers and Scales
- City Nature Challenge Walk (three walks): Scotchmans Creek Trail; Oakleigh – Skink Link Project and Waterbugs; and Waverley Park Wetlands – Frogs and Birds
- Mysterious Microbats seminar (in person and webinar)
- How to Plant Up Your Naturestrip (webinar).

Additionally:

- Monash Greenshoots Facebook now has 212 active members (up from 114 in 2020/21) and mailing list of 600.
- Subscribed to ReNew, an online magazine on cost-effective technologies for environmentally sustainable lifestyles.
- Subscribed to Good Organic Gardening and added this to Mulgrave Library collection.
- Delivered programs and activities using recycled materials within libraries’ public programs.
- Working with EAGA and member Councils to investigate increasing use of recycled content materials in Council.

Reusable Nappy Feasibility Study

Monash Council received \$80,000 from Sustainability Victoria’s Recycling Victoria Councils Fund for a Reusable Nappy Feasibility Study, which was led by Monash Council on behalf of 12 metropolitan councils. In 2021/22 we heard from 262 Monash residents, and 2,282 residents across the participating Council areas. The study:

- Reviewed 16 reusable nappy programs to assess how effective they are at increasing the use of reusable nappies and reducing waste to landfill.
- Reviewed 12 reusable nappy brands, including a triple-bottom line assessment investigating environmental, social and economic impacts.
- Heard from 2,282 parents and carers (within the 12 Council areas), who shared their experiences of using both reusable and disposable nappies in the survey.
- Held 10 semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including Maternal Child Health, Early Learning Services professionals and reusable nappy educators.
- Held 10 semi-structured interviews with residents in participating Local Government Areas to provide rich qualitative insights from diverse cultural, income and household types.

- Hosted six focus groups with 46 parents and carers that included disposable and reusable nappy users, lower, middle and higher-income households, “cloth-curious”, expectant parents, and culturally diverse parents and carers.

The community consultation sought to understand the barriers parents and carers face to using more reusable nappies and less disposable nappies. The Reusable Nappy Feasibility Study proposes two key recommendations: A joint communications strategy and campaign, as first priority, and opportunities for community members to experience and connect over reusable nappies, as a second and related priority. Monash Council is part of a 14 Council Implementation project, led by Glen Eira, to deliver on the recommendations of the study in 2023/24.

Congratulations Brentwood Secondary College

Brentwood Secondary College was crowned the Climate Action Community Champion at the Premier’s Sustainability Awards in November 2021 for its ‘Towards Zero Bremissions’ initiative aimed at reducing their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from 540 tonnes to (net) zero. The activities undertaken contributed to a 35% reduction in GHG emissions to date. Council’s Sustainability and Horticulture team supports the college through Indigenous plantings, educational materials and sessions and the Teachers Environment Network.